

# HOUSTONE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Friday 22 September 2023

## MESSAGE FROM MS ENGLISH

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Houston School! We are so excited to start the new school year with your children and are settling in well after 2 weeks in operation.

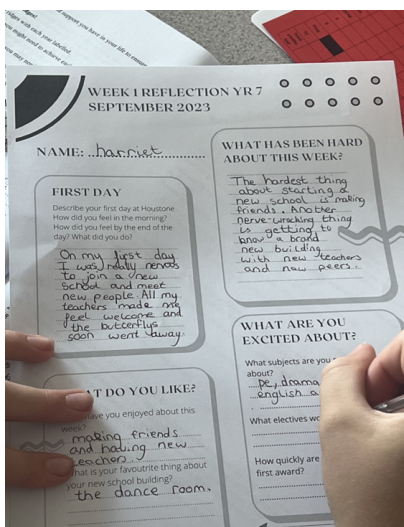
To our returning pupils, we are so glad to have you back. We know you had a great year last year, and we are looking forward to building on that success.

To our new pupils, we welcome you to the Houston School family! We are excited to get to know you and help you reach your full potential.

I have been incredibly impressed by the way our pupils have started this academic year. It has been wonderful to see our pupils working hard with their tutors in their 'Tutelage' sessions – where we explicitly teach the children how to be successful at school. Sessions included:

- How do we read in DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)?
- How do we move around the building?
- How do we participate in PE?
- How do we use our Achievement Cards?

Our lessons and electives have also begun, and I am delighted that pupils are working hard across all of their subjects. I have selected a few images from my visits to electives this week to share with you below.



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## Achievement Cards

Pupils are issued with an Achievement Card every Friday morning. They have this with them for every lesson and it is the foundation of our behaviour policy. They need to remember to bring it into school (in the plastic wallet in their planners) every single day (a red card is issued if they do not bring their Achievement Card into school and this also means the pupil will have a same day 30 minute correction).

Pupils should be receiving lots of ticks and Houston Housepoints (HH) on their card. You can see how well they are doing in each of their lessons every day.

If something goes wrong in a lesson or on the corridor, this is also marked on the card.

- TC – Transition Credits. Pupils are given a mark on their card in the TC section if they have talked during the silent transition. If they lose two in a day, pupils are issued with a 30 minute correction after school.
- EQ – Equipment. Your child hasn't got the equipment they need for the day.
- UN – Uniform. A uniform infraction such as a missing tie or an untucked shirt
- DR – Disruption. Pupils are given a first warning (MR1). If there is another incident in class, the card is marked with DR (MR2).
- OT – Off Task. Pupils are given a first warning (MR1). If there is another incident in class, the card is marked with OT (MR2).
- LL – Late to Lesson. If a pupil arrives after the rest of their class without an adult or permission.

Pupils work hard all week to earn their 'Friday Finish'. As standard, school finishes at 4PM each day. Pupils who earn their 'Friday Finish' by losing no more than 5 credits across the week (and making sure their card is signed by a parent on a Thursday evening) are dismissed at 3:20PM. Parents will not receive text messages about 'Friday Finish' because the following rules apply:

- Parents sign the card every Thursday night and acknowledge:

- If they sign the card and the pupil has lost no more than 5 credits, you are giving permission for pupils to leave at 3:20PM
- If they sign the card and the pupil has lost 6 or more credits, you know pupils will stay until 4PM
- If you have not signed a card, you know pupils will stay until 4PM

**We know the Achievement Card is a vital link between home and school. Please ensure this is signed every Thursday night and your child brings it into school every day.**

The image shows two documents. The left document is the 'Houston Achievement Card' and the right is the 'Houston Behaviour Codes' sheet.

**Houston Achievement Card**

Week beginning 15/09/2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
TT					
1					
2					
Break					
3					
4					
Lunch					
DEAR					
5					
6					
Prep					
TC					
Total credits lost					

**Houston Behaviour Codes**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lesson credit kept – well done!
<input type="checkbox"/>	HH Houston House Point gained – well done!
<input type="checkbox"/>	UN Uniform
<input type="checkbox"/>	EQ Lack of equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	DR Disruption
<input type="checkbox"/>	OT Off task
<input type="checkbox"/>	LL Late to lesson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of break/lunch credit – teacher to sign

Parents or carers must sign this every Thursday evening.  
I acknowledge that my child has/has not achieved 'Friday Finish' time.  
Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

To qualify for Friday Finish, pupils must:

- Keep this card neat and safe all week
- Ensure this is signed by parents on Thursday evening
- Hand this in to your tutor on Friday morning
- Have not lost 6 or more credits in the week

Student reflection on the week: \_\_\_\_\_



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## School Lunch

Our school diner is run by a company called Innovate. They prepare the food and run the payment system at our school. They run a break and lunch service of both hot and cold items every day. The lunch menu rotates weekly and can be [found on our website here](#).

We are a cashless school and lunch works on a payment system called ParentPay. Each child has an account and has taken a letter home (if you need a replacement, please email [info@houstoneschool.co.uk](mailto:info@houstoneschool.co.uk)). You can top up your child's account online via the instructions on the letter.

The diner works like a shop – each item is price marked and pupils can choose what they would like, bring it to the till, and pay. Parents should ensure that ParentPay is topped up so pupils can purchase items. Alternatively, a packed lunch should be provided each day.

For pupils eligible for Free School Meals, a credit of £2.50 is applied to the account each day. Pupils can use this to purchase items at lunch (any combination up to the cost of £2.50). A 'main meal and dessert' combination is available each day for £2.50. There is also a Blue Dot Deal (5 smaller items) that also costs £2.50.

Houston School get notified by Central Bedfordshire Council when a pupil is eligible for Free School Meals. Parents should check their eligibility and contact the council on 0300 300 8306 for any applications or any queries.

## AUTUMN TERM DATES

**Tuesday 12 September- All pupils return to School**

**Monday 23rd October to Friday 3rd November- 2 Week Half Term**

**Monday 6th November- Pupils return to school**

**Wednesday 20th December to Tuesday 2nd January - Christmas Holidays**

**Wednesday 3rd January- Staff Training Day**

**Thursday 4 January- Pupils return to School**

